

REMARKS

A Final Office Action was mailed by the Examiner on March 26, 2003, setting forth a shortened statutory period for reply to expire three-months from the date of mailing. The Action further states that, in the case that a reply is received within two months of the mailing date, an Advisory Action should be mailed no later than the end of the three month shortened statutory period.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.7, as the two-month time period to file a response to initiate an Advisory Action ended on a Federal holiday, namely Memorial Day, a response would be considered timely filed the next business day, namely, May 27, 2003. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that such a response was indeed timely filed, and is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

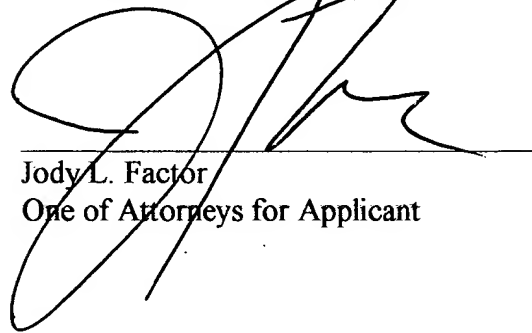
Inasmuch as an Advisory Action was not received, and remains to be received by Applicant, a routine status check was executed through the USPTO PAIR website. Through said status check, Applicant became aware that the aforementioned response was not entered to the database. As such, Applicant hereby attaches a copy of the return postcard bearing the USPTO mailroom stamp whereby acknowledging receipt of the response as Exhibit B.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that a response was timely filed and respectfully requests examination of the May 27, 2003 response and issuance of an appropriate Advisory Action in order to proceed with prosecution of the present application.

Should anything further be required, a telephone call to the undersigned, at (312) 226-1818, is respectfully invited.

Respectfully submitted,

FACTOR & PARTNERS, LLC



Dated: July 16, 2003

Jody L. Factor
One of Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on July 16, 2003

Jody L. Factor

Name of Applicant, assignee, applicant's attorney or Registered Representative



Signature